

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of producing a zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide, comprising the steps of:

- (a) producing Fe oxide solution from a Fe-containing compound;
- (b) adding a Mn-containing compound to the Fe oxide solution to obtain Fe-Mn solution, the ratio of Mn to Fe in solution as determined by the formula $Mn/(Mn + Fe)$ being 0.1 or less;
- (c) adding a zeolite to the Fe-Mn solution to form a mixture;
- (d) filtering the mixture; and
- (e) drying the filtered product, thereby producing a zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein said Fe-containing compound is $FeCl_3$.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein said Mn-containing compound is $MnCl_2$.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein said zeolite is either natural or synthetic.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 7, before step (d), said method further comprising the steps of:

- adjusting the pH of the mixture; and
- equilibrating the mixture.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 7, before step (e), said method further comprising the step of:

washing the filtered product with distilled water.

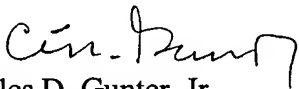
Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the filtered product is air-dried or oven-dried.

Claims 14- 37 (canceled)

Please charge any additional fees which may be due for the continued prosecution of this application to Applicant's Deposit Account No. 50-2555 (Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP).

Respectfully submitted,

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Charles D. Gunter, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,386
Whitaker, Chalk, Swindle & Sawyer, LLP
301 Commerce St, Suite 3500
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4186
(817) 878-0504
ATTORNEY(S) FOR APPLICANT

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